

Amendment 3369: To Increase Transparency of the Both the Legislative and Administrative Processes and Give Americans the Opportunity to Be More Involved in Holding Their Elected Officials Accountable.

On page 90 in the Senate version of Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Assistance bill, line 19, the following is written:

“None of the funds provided in this chapter to the Department of Transportation or the Department of Housing and Urban Development may be used to make a grant unless the Secretary of such Department notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project, State or locality is selected to receive a grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more is announced by either Department or a modal administration.”

This amendment simply modifies the current reporting requirement so the information is posted on a public Website so all Americans and Members of Congress can be involved in holding the federal government accountable.

Publicizing Grant Awards Will Allow Americans to See How Their Money is Being Spent

By requiring that the DOT and HUD notify Congress and the American people about the grants awarded on public Websites, all Americans with access to the internet will be able to read and evaluate this material.

In today's information age, observations made by bloggers, government accountability groups, students, and others can help inform the public of needs or problems within our government and society.

Empowering millions of Americans to check up on their government by viewing these notifications online, will also further encourage agencies to be answerable to Congress and the people of the United States of America.

Publicizing Grant Awards Will Allow All Members of Congress to Conduct Better Oversight of Agencies

By requiring grant award notifications to the entire Congress and posting such notifications on agency and department public websites, the American people, all Members of Congress and their staff will be ensured easy access to these notifications.

Evaluating and reading these notifications may prompt a Congressional hearing, federal legislation, or even a termination of a federal policy.

This amendment also changes the amount of money that triggers the requirement to notify Congress of the recipients of certain grants from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000. This is an important step in ensuring that every American tax dollar is spent wisely and in a way free from undue influence.

By passing this amendment to the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Assistance, Congress will increase transparency of the both the legislative and administrative processes and give Americans the opportunity to be more involved in holding their elected officials accountable.